

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/769,146
Attorney Docket No. 351991-991320 (Formerly 2102475-991320)

REMARKS

Please cancel claims 21-28.

Examiner's restriction requirement directed toward claims 21-28 is now moot, as those claims have been cancelled.

New claims 29-30, corresponding to Species I, have been added. Applicant's claims as elected are now believed to be fully responsive to Examiner's restriction requirement. Support for these claims can be found in, for example, FIG. 1 and the accompanying text. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant's claims were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, and unpatentable over, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0088794 to *Boerstler et al.* ("*Boerstler*"). Applicant respectfully notes that *Boerstler* does not disclose all elements of amended claims 2-5, or new claims 29-30. More specifically, *Boerstler* does not disclose an integrated circuit whose power supply terminal is connected to its internal circuit.

As noted previously, *Boerstler* discloses an ESD-protection removal system in which processors 502 are each connected to a single IO pad 501. Independent claim 29 is thus patentable over *Boerstler* for at least the reason that it recites an internal circuit having more than one external terminal: "first and second external terminals connected to the internal circuit"

Also, as noted previously, the fuse 504 of *Boerstler* is connected to diodes 505, 506, which are in turn connected to voltage supply 508 and ground 511. Thus, *Boerstler* at most discloses an electrostatic discharge line that is remotely connected to a fuse. Accordingly, independent claim 29 is patentable over *Boerstler* for at least the additional reason that it recites "a discharge line directly connected to the second terminals of the first and second fuse elements, and serving as an electrostatic discharge current path."

The remaining claims depend from claim 29 and are thus patentable for at least this same reason.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-5 and 29-30 are now in condition for allowance.


The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

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